

Appl. No. 10/043,832
Atty. Docket No. 8835
Amdt. dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1, 11, 15, 17, 20, and 23 are currently amended. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 8 and claim 9. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14. Claims 15, 17, and 20 have been amended to depend from currently amended claims 1 and 11. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14. Claims 8, 9, and 14 have been cancelled.

Allowable subject matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the identification of the subject matter of claims 9 and 14 as allowable if the claims are rewritten to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 8 and claim 9. Claims 11 and 23 have each been amended to include the limitations of claim 14. Applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 11 are equivalent to claims 9 and 14 respectively rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the underlying base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of Figures 12 and 13 in view of Platsch (U.S. 5,502,788). Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the current amendment to claim 23.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 USC § 103. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

For: Donn Nathan Boatman et al.

By: 
David K. Mattheis
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 48,683
(513) 634-7419

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